

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHCUOSECSTATE WASHDC 9794

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: PRIMIN'S POLICY SPEECH

REF: TOKYO 11451

SUMMARY. IN BRIEF POLICY SPEECH JULY 30, PRIMIN
FUKUDA FOCUSED MAINLY ON ECONOMY AND FOREIGN POLICY.
HE ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT GOJ
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WAS GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO RECOVERY OF ECONOMY.
FOREIGN POLICY REMARKS WERE RUNDOWN OF FAMILIAR GOJ
POSITIONS ON RELATIONS WITH ASEAN, CHINA, USSR AND US;
KOREA WAS NOT MENTIONED. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PRIMIN FUKUDA'S TEN MINUTE POLICY SPEECH
JULY 30, HE INDICATED MANAGEMENT OF JAPANESE ECONOMY

WAS NOW BIGGEST PROBLEM FOR GOJ. FUKUDA STRESSED VARIETY OF STIMULATIVE MEASURES WHICH GOVERNMENT IS ADOPTING AMIDST SLOW ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND POINTED TO CENTRAL ROLE OF SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SCHEDULED FOR SUBMISSION IN FALL. HE NOTED ALSO, HOWEVER, IMPORTANCE OF PRICE STABILITY AND OF FISCAL HEALTH AS GOALS FOR GOJ POLICY.

2. ON FOREIGN POLICY, FUKUDA FOLLOWED FAMILIAR THEMES:

--PLAYED UP HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT AND ASEAN CAPITALS AS "HAVING IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE IN ESTABLISHING COOPERATIVE RELATIONS AS TRUE FRIENDS";

--PROMISED TO PROMOTE "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" WITH INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES;

--NOTED THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HAD CONFIRMED THEIR MUTUAL DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE US-JAPAN TIES;

--DESCRIBED SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS AS DEVELOPING "SMOOTHLY" ON BASIS OF SINCERE ADHERENCE TO THEIR 1972 JOINT COMMUNIQUE;

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--AND, AFTER NOTING IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR, EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES QUESTION WAS INDISPENSABLE PREREQUISITE FOR STABLE RELATIONSHIP.

3. AS IS USUAL WITH POLICY SPEECHES BY PRIMINS, PRESS REACTION WAS CRITICAL. ASAHI, IN LINE ECHOED BY MOST OTHER PAPERS, SAID JAPAN'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE TOO SERIOUS TO BE TREATED IN STEREOTYPED, BUREAUCRATIC LANGUAGE WHICH FAILED TO DISCUSS PARTICULARS. PAPERS APPROVED INDIVIDUAL POINTS IN FUKUDA'S FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS, BUT WERE CRITICAL OF WHAT THEY SAW AS FAILURE OF FUKUDA TO "CLARIFY" HIS FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES.

4. COMMENT. IT SEEMS THAT INTENTION OF FUKUDA'S STATEMENTS ON ECONOMY WAS NOT TO INFORM PUBLIC OF SPECIFIC STEPS WHICH GOJ WOULD TAKE TO PROMOTE RECOVERY, BUT SIMPLY TO REASSURE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT GOJ WAS GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO ECONOMY. AT LONGER SPECIAL DIET SESSION IN FALL, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. FUKUDA'S DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN POLICY STUCK CLOSELY TO FAMILAR GOJ POSITIONS. ONLY EXCEPTIONS WERE HIS

APPARENTLY STRONG PERSONAL STAKE IN SUCCESS OF ASEAN
TRIP AND FAILURE TO MAKE ANY MENTION OF KORE. FUKUDA
PROBABLY WANTED TO STEER CLEAR OF KOREA, POTENTIALLY
MOST CONTROVERSIAL FOREIGN POLICY TOPIC, AT LEAST UNTIL
HIS RETURN FROM ASEAN TRIP.
MANSFIELD

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